

U.S.S.N. 10/708,858

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03-1088 (BOE 0481 PA)

**REMARKS**

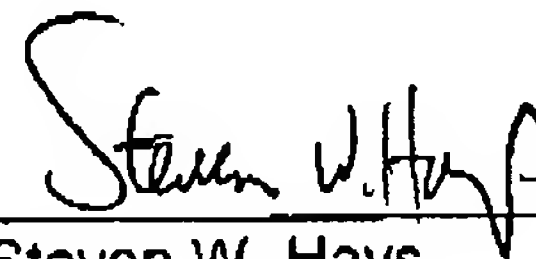
Claims 1, 15, 17, 25, 27 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Specht et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,985,362) in view of Klapper et al. (5,312,362) and further in view of Thom (U.S. Application No. 2001/0041753. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection. However, in an effort to move this case towards allowance, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 15 and 25 to include a moisture resistant compound to the melamine-base foam. The Examiner has indicated previously that such an amendment would result in claim 1 being allowable, and Applicants respectfully suggest that a similar addition to claims 15 and 25 would result in these independent claims being allowable as well.

In addition, Applicants have cancelled claim 2 without prejudice and amended claim 3 to depend from amended claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1, 3-15, 17-25, and 27-35 are in proper form and allowable over the cited prior art. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any matters remain unresolved.

Respectfully Submitted,

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